

THE  
TRUE DISCRIPTION  
of a Royall

*Masque.*

PRESENTED AT HAMPTON  
Court, vpon Sunday night, be-  
ing the eight of Ianuary.

1604.

AND  
Personated by the Queenes most Excellent  
*Majestie*, attended by Eleuen  
Ladies of Honour.



LONDON  
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solde at the Long Shoppe, adjoyning vnto  
S. Mildreds Church in the  
Poultrye. 1604.*

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TRUE DESCRIPTION

Of a Royall Masque.

*Presented at Hampton Court vpon Sunday night being the eight day of January. 1604.*

The Night apparelled in a black vesture set with Stars  
comming from belowe, and approching mee into the Temple  
erected towards the vpper end of the Hall : wakens her Sonne  
*Somnus* that there lyes sleeping in a Caue ; with this speech.

**A** Wake dark sleep, rouse thee from out thy Caue;  
Thy Mother Night, that bred thee in her womb,  
And fed thee first with silence and with ease,  
Doth heere thy shadowed operations craue.  
And therefore wake my sonne, awake and come:  
Strike with thy Hornie wand, the spirits of theis  
That here expect some pleasing nouelties;  
And make their slumber to beget strange sightes.

A 3

Strange

*The true discription*

Strange visions and vn-usual properties,  
Vn-seene of latter ages, auncient rites;  
Of gifts diuine, wrapt vp in Misteries,  
Make this to seeme a Temple in their sight:  
Whose maine support, holy religion, frame,  
And wisdome, courage, Temperaunce and right:  
Make seeme the pillors that sustaine the same,  
Shadow some *Sibill* to attend the rites;  
And to describe the power that shall resorte,  
With the interpretation of the benefites  
They bring in Cloudes, & what they doe importe,  
Yet make them to protend the true desire  
Of those that wish them, waking reall things;  
Whilst I wil hoou'ring heere aloofe retire,  
And couer all things with my fable wings.

*Som.* Deere Mother Night, I your commandement  
Obay, and dreams t'interpret dreames, will make  
As waking curiositie is wonte.  
Though better dreames asleepe, the dreames awake  
And this White Horny wand shall worke the deed:  
Whose power, doth figures of the light present,  
When from this fable *Radius* doth proceede  
Nought but confusde darke shewes to no intent:  
And therefore goe bright visions, entertaine  
All round about, whilst Ile to sleepe againe.

IRIS



*Iris the Messenger of the Goddesses, descending from the Mountaine where they were assembled, decks in the couller of the Raine-bow, speakes as followeth.*

**I** *The daughter of wonder, now made the*  
Messenger of power; heere descended, to signifie  
the comming of a Celestiall presence of Goddesses,  
determined this faire Temple of peace, with holy  
handes and deuoute desires, haue dedicated to vnity  
and concord: and leauing to themselues in *Ouidos* *Ida*  
*Papbos* their auncient delighting places of Greece and  
Asia, now made the seates of Barbarisme, and spoyle,  
vouchsafe to take their recreation, here, vpon the We-  
sterne Mount of mightie *Brittanie*, the Land of Ciuill  
Musicke and of rest: And are pleased to appeere in  
the self-same figures, wherein antiquitie hath formor-  
ly cloathed them; and as they haue bene cast in the  
imagination of pittie, who hath giuen mortal shapes  
to the gifts and effects of an eternall power: For that  
those

those beautifull Carrecters of sence were easier to be read, then their mysticall Ideas, dispersed in that wide and incomprehensible volume of Nature. And well haue mortall men apparelled all the vertues, all the graces, all blessings, with that shape wherewith themselves are most delighted, and which worke the best motions, and best represent the beauty of heauenly powers. And therefore, reuerend Prophetesse, who heare attendest vpon the deuotions of this place, prepare thy selfe for those rites that pertaine to thy function, and the honour of such deities. And to the end thou maist haue a fore-notion what powers, and who they are that come; take here this Prospective, and herein note and tell what thou seest: For well maist thou there obserue their shadowes, but their presence will bereaue thee of all, saue admiration and amazement. For who can looke vpon such powers and speake? And so I leaue thee.

*Sybilla*





Sybilla deckt as a Nunne, in blacke vpon

*white, hauing receiued this Message, and the Prospective, vsith  
these words.*

What haue I seene? Where am I? Or doe I see  
at all? or am I anie where? What? was this  
IRIS the Messenger of IVNO, or else, but a fanta-  
sma or imagination? Will the Diuine Goddesses  
vouchsafe to visit this poore Temple? Shall I be blest  
to entertaine so great powers? It can bee but a  
dreame; yet such great powers haue blest as humble  
Roofes, and vse it of no other respect, then their  
owne great fauours to shine where they will. But  
what Prospective is this? or what shall I herein see?  
O admirable powers! what sights are these?

B

*First*





*The true discription*

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*IUNO.*

**F**irst, heere Imperiall *IUNO* in her chayre,  
With Scepter of command, for Kingdomes large:  
Ascends, all clad in colours of the ayre,  
Crown'd with bright Starres, to signifie her charge.

*PALLAS.*

Next, warlike *PALLAS*, in her helmet drest,  
With Launce of winning; Target of defence:  
In whom both wit and courage are exprest,  
To get with glory, hold with providence.

*VENVS.*

Then louely *VENVS* in bright Majestie,  
Appeares with milde aspect in Dove-like-hewe,  
With th'al combining scarffe of amities,  
T'ingird strange Nations with affections true.

*DIANA.*

Next, chaste *DIANA* in her robes of greene,  
With weapons of the Wood her selfe addresss,  
So bleste the Forrest where her power is seene,  
T'hold peace with all the World, but with wilde beasts.

*VESTA.*

Then comely *VESTA* with her flames of zeale,  
Presents her selfe, clad in white puritie,  
Whose booke the soules sweet comfort doth reueale,  
By th' euer burning lampe of pietie.

Next



*A Royall Maske.*

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*PROSERPINA.*

Next, rich PROSERPINA with flames of gold,  
Whose estate, although within the earth, yet shee  
Comes from aboue, and in her hand doth hold  
The Mine of wealth, with cheerefull Majestie.

*MACARIA.*

Then al in purple robes, rich Happinesse:  
Next her appeares, bearing in eicher hand,  
Th'ensignes both of welth and wize expresse,  
That by them both, her Majestie doth stand.

*CONCORDIA.*

Then all in partie-coloured robes appeares  
In White and Crimson-gracefull Concord, rest  
With knottes of vnion, and in hand she beares  
The happy joynded Roses of our rest.

*ASTRÆA.*

Cleare-eyde ASTRÆA next, with reuerend browe,  
Clad in Celestiall heu, which best she likes:  
Comes with her ballance, and her sword to shoue,  
That first her judgement weighes before it strikes.

*FLORA.*

Then cheerefull FLORA, all adorn'd with flowers,  
Who cloathes the earth with beauty and delight,  
In thousand sundrie sutes, whilst shining howers,  
Will scarce afford a darkenes to the Night.

*A Royall Maske.*

**CERES.**

Next, plenteous CERES in her haruest weede,  
Crown'd with the 'ncrease of what she gaue to keepe,  
To Gratitude and Faith in whom we neede:  
Who sowes on Vertue, shall with glory reape.

**TETHIS.**

Lastly comes TETHIS, ALBIONS deereſt Loue,  
Whom ſhe in faithfull armes doth deigne t'imbrace:  
And brings the Trident of her power t'approue  
Her fauour and reſpect to do him grace.

Thus haue I read their ſhadowes, but beholde:  
In glory where they come as IRIS tolde.

*The*



## *The three Graces march before the Goddess.*

*sets, descending downe the Mountaine with loud Musicke, and coming up to the upper end, stay and sing this Song, whilst the Goddesses go up to the Temple with Presents, and from thence, march downe the Hall.*

### *The Song.*

**D**esert, Reward, and Gratitude,  
The Graces of Society:  
Do heere with hand in hand conclude,  
The blessed chaine of amity.

1. For I deserue. 2. I giue. 3. I thanke:  
All. Thanks, giufts, deserts thus joyne in ranck.

Wee yeeld the splendent rayes of light,  
Vnto the blessings that discend;  
The grace whereof with more delight,  
The well disposing doth commend,  
Whilst gratitude, rewards, deserts,  
Please, win, draw on, and couple hearts.

For woorth, and power, and due respect,  
Deserues, bestowes, retournes with grace;  
The meed, reward, the kind effect,  
That giues the world a cheerefull face,  
And turning in this course of right,  
Makes vertue moue with true delight.

*The*

The Song being ended, and the Maskers in the midst of the Hall, disposing themselves to their daunce, Sibilla hauing placed their seuerall Presents on the Altar, uttereth these words.

O Power of powers, graunt to our vowes we pray,  
That these fayre blessings which we here amelt,  
In figures left vs here, in substance, may  
Be those great proppes of glory and respect.  
Let Kingdomes large, let armed Pollicye,  
Milde Loue, true Zeale, right shooting at the white,  
Of braue designs, let Wealth, Felicitie,  
Iustice, and Concord, Pleasure, Plenty, Might  
And poore by Sea, with grace proportionate,  
Make glorious both this Kingdome and Estate.

*After this the Maskers daunced their owne measures,  
which being ended, & they ready to take out the Lords,  
the three Graces sing.*

I.

W<sup>H</sup>ilst worth with honour, make their choise,  
For measured motions ordered right:  
Now let vs likewise giue a voyce,  
Vnto the touch of our delight.

II.

F<sup>O</sup>r comforts lockt vp without sound,  
Are th' vnborne Children of the thought:  
Like vnto Treasures neuer found,  
That buried lowe, are left forgot.

III.

Where words or glory do not show,  
There like braue actions without Frame,  
It seems like plants not set to growe,  
Or as a tombe without a name.

The



*The Maskers hauing ended the Daun-*  
*cing with the Lords: IRIS, giues warning of their departure, in this*  
*manner,*

IRIS.

AS I was the joyfull Messenger, to notifie the coming of these diuine powers ; so am I now the same of their departure , who hauing cloathed themselves with these apparances, doe now returne backe Spheres of there owne being from whence they are. But yet of my selfe, this much I must reueale, though against the warrant of a Messenger, who, I know had better to sayle in obedience, than in presumption, that these Deities by (the motion of the all-directing Pallas, the glorious Patronesse of this mighty Monarchie) descending in the Majestie of their inuisible essences, vpon yonder Mountain; found there the best and most worthy, the best of Ladies, disporting her selfe with the choicest attendants, whose formes they presently tooke, as delighting to be in the best built Temples of beauty and honour, and in them vouchsafed to appeare in this manner, being otherwise no objects for mortall eyes.

And

And no doubt, but that in respect of the persons,  
vnder whose beautilfull coverings they have thus pre-  
sented themselves: these Deities will be pleased, the  
rather at their invocation, knowing all their desires  
to be such, as enermore to grace this glorious Mo-  
narchie, with the Royall effects of these blessings re-  
presented.

*After this, they fel to a short parting Daunce,  
and so ascended the Mountaine in the same  
order as they came downe.*

**FINIS.**



objects for mortall eyes.

